

# Battle Born

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Nevada National Guard  
Summer 2012



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head of the class  
at academy**  
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*Eligible bachelors with ideas of asking Sgt. Buri on a date might want to think twice. She has three brothers serving with 1/221st Cavalry. They're very protective. For complete coverage, turn to page 11.*



Governor Brian Sandoval  
Commander in Chief  
Nevada



Brigadier General Bill Burks  
The Adjutant General  
Nevada National Guard

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**The Adjutant General**

Brig. Gen. Bill Burks

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Summer 2012

# Battle Born

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### Battle Beauty

**ON THE COVER:** Sgt. Aileen Buri, after claiming the Miss Las Vegas and Little Miss Nevada Talent Supreme titles within the past year, won the Miss Nevada State contest in March to add a third jewel to her pageant tiara. For complete coverage turn to page 11.

*Photo by Wayne Wallace, Wayne Wallace Photography*

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# FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

*Col. Johnny Isaak, Nevada Army Guard Chief of Staff*



## Get in the game: Organizational diversity not just another awareness program

More than 10 years of persistent conflict has drastically changed the nature and disposition of our force. Our military operates in largely unconventional, asymmetric combat environments. We fight in failed nation states against non-state terrorist groups and insurgent organizations, casting us into non-typical roles performing unconventional missions that were unheard of two decades ago. Employing the diverse backgrounds and personal experiences of our fighting men and women has played a key role in our military's ability to prevail in these new and ever-evolving mission sets.

Force diversification directly contributed to our nation's success in reconstruction efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Drawing on the diverse capabilities of the Soldiers and Airmen within the Nevada Agribusiness Development Team played a crucial role in the team's success that far exceeded the performance and effectiveness of other ADTs in theater.

Exceptional service members such as Army Captains Liz Gabriel and Denise Ramos, Sgt. Christina Gonzales and Air Guard Staff Sgt. Lera Masini employed their unique backgrounds to build critical relationships. Their ethnic and gender diversity brought different perspectives to bear in solving complex problems that helped build Afghan governmental capacity and measurable development in local and district farming sectors. Their actions supported key counterinsurgency efforts within the ADT's battlespace.

Organizational diversity is much more than just "feel good" awards or an awareness program. It is really about establishing a climate and sustaining an inclusive environment that reaches out to our communities to recruit and retain the best and brightest from all walks of life Nevada has to offer. It is about building and maintaining clear and transparent organizational career pathways so that all can see

and progress through, participate in, and contribute to our great organization. It is about getting everyone in the fight to ensure success, accomplish our mission, and achieve our individual aspirations. It is about working within our organization and our communities to seek out and include a full and broad range of perspectives, experiences and rich cultural backgrounds. Organizational diversity is a critical force multiplier that brings all of the organizational and individual attributes to resolve complex problem solving and mission accomplishment.

On the home front, these same key attributes are sought in our Guardsmen and our communities to form a central role in transforming the Nevada Guard for the

future, and to set the conditions for mission accomplishment. It is through our diverse backgrounds and unique personal experiences that we will be able to meet the challenges ahead. We must work together to identify and mitigate barriers to inclusion. And from our diverse pool of military men and women, we must build core strength from which to protect our nation and our fellow citizens.

Get in the game. Bring your experiences and abilities to the team and help us defend this great organization and our great nation. Your unique background and experiences are what we need. There is a great career opportunity ahead of you in the Nevada Guard. What are you waiting for? Get in the fight. ■

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# Afghanistan produces all kinds of heroes



By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

“Welcome home, heroes!”

Upon return from my recent one-year deployment to Afghanistan, supporters of American troops lined the airport concourses to convey their support. They clapped and waved flags and signs. They shook my hand.

It felt strange to be referred to as a hero.

To me, heroes were those I saluted as they passed in caskets draped with American flags on Disney Road on Bagram Air Field. Those Soldiers put their lives on the line and made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

After jet lag faded and memories of the hundreds of high-fives I received became more distant, I pondered the most prevalent questions: Was it all worth it? Was I a hero?

Often, friends’ and family members’ eyes would glaze over as I described battling boredom while traveling across the dusty, mountainous roads of Afghanistan, the excitement of flying in helicopters in the middle of the night and the mental impact of interviewing combatants who lived with the threat of constant attack.

But I was not one of the trigger pullers on combat patrols. Instead, as a historian, I experienced one of the most unique positions on the battlefield. By recording Soldiers’ personal narratives, I heard the most amazing and tragic war stories.

During deployment, my job entailed determining the results of what our American troops accomplished and died for in Afghanistan.

“What was value added?” my Army historian mentor would ask.

This remains a struggle today. Commanders wish to measure success with tangible elements of heroism. Is success the number of missions performed, the targets captured or the schools built?

There were many Soldiers who tutored Afghan children. There were commanders who coordinated water well and school construction. There was a memorable first sergeant, the kind who cracked raunchy jokes with his troops to maintain morale, who sobbed uncontrollably when he cradled an injured Afghan boy.

There were memorable tales of fixed-wing and rotary pilots who tirelessly shuttled Soldiers, supplies and bombs back and forth across the battlefield. There were unforgettable anecdotes involving clerks, cooks and medics.

Some of my interview subjects smiled, some cried, but the common denominator among them was the weapon on their back.

During a recent lunch in Carson City, a gray-bearded veteran shared with me his experience as a Navy corpsman in Vietnam. He had noticed the ‘Screaming Eagle’ patch on my right shoulder, the iconic emblem for 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. It’s a combat patch that is both an honor and privilege to wear, considering the division’s reputation in World War II and Vietnam.

Veterans rarely talk about the honor of doing our part in war but proudly call each other brothers and sisters. We’ll always remember our experiences and some parts of us will remain forever changed.

Six months after returning to Nevada, I realize there are many variations of heroes. I had the courage to volunteer, to leave my home and participate in a war on behalf of my nation. If that makes me a hero, then so be it. ■

Some say the retired pay issue is settled...

# AUSA

doesn't think so.

Reducing the receipt of retired pay by three months for every aggregate 90 days of active duty service is a start for some Reserve Component Soldiers.

**HOWEVER**, it isn't good enough. The Association of the U.S. Army wants the retirement age reduced from 60 to 55 for all Reserve Component Soldiers.



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# Nevada leaders seek to make part of National Guard's DNA



By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

**RENO** – Diversity is essential to the National Guard's success, senior leaders said to about 500 people at the 2012 National Guard Diversity Conference held May 23-24.

"We all possess individuality," said Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, as he described diversity's key characteristics at the conference hosted by the Nevada National Guard. "We encourage it; we don't want to destroy it."

As chief, McKinley has reinvigorated the National Guard's diversity program. Among other initiatives he has promoted:

- A national level Joint Executive Diversity Council.
- Joint diversity councils in each of the 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia.
- A cargo-pocket-size "Leader's Guide to Diversity" available to every Guard member.
- Virtual diversity conferences that Guard members can join at the click of a mouse.
- Strengthened relationships with affinity groups.
- An agreement with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute to provide diversity training for rising leaders.

"We are well on our way to implementing all the tools," McKinley said. "We need to create more passion in our hearts for this program. We've got the science. We've got the way ahead in terms of numeric achievements, and goals. We've got metrics. We've got handbooks. This has got to be a program, a project, a mission, a journey that's embedded deeply in our hearts."

In 2011, Diversity Executive magazine profiled McKinley's evolution in diversity, outlining his involvement in the '60s Civil Rights movement; his education as an equal opportunity and treatment officer; his experiences during that assignment and his decision as chief to appoint a special assistant for diversity and push the message through the ranks from the top down.

"We don't have time to wait for the system to bring results that we know and desire we can produce in our hearts," McKinley said. "Take the opportunity to look at the process. Make sure it is fair. Make sure it brings up the best and brightest. And, when you have a chance, lift up a person who needs just a chance to show what he or she is made of. Results speak for themselves."

Col. Ondra Berry, a Nevada Air Guardsman and special assistant to McKinley, spoke about some of the related challenges. "One challenge will be connecting attitude with action. Leadership is a key," he said. "Another of the biggest challenges is recruiting a work force that represents the communities we serve. This is where you build the bench. We have to ask ourselves: Do we have cultures of excellence? Do we have a strong community partnership?"

Berry added that winning hearts and minds will help leadership convey the principles of diversity to the core of the Guard. "What separates this year's conference from others is teaching people to have hope, bring back someone who was lost, and to push and encourage young Airmen and Soldiers," he said. "This is a heart conference. On any initiative, you must have your heart in the effort. This conference reaches inside of each person, and challenges them to ask: 'Where must I be better?' Leaders will define their own legacy, and how they reach out to others."

Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, director of the Air National Guard, imagined a time when events such as the conference and Reno-based meeting of the Joint Executive Diversity Council will not be needed. "One of these days, diversity will be such a part of our culture," he said, "we won't need diversity councils because it will just be a way of life. It will be part of our DNA." ■

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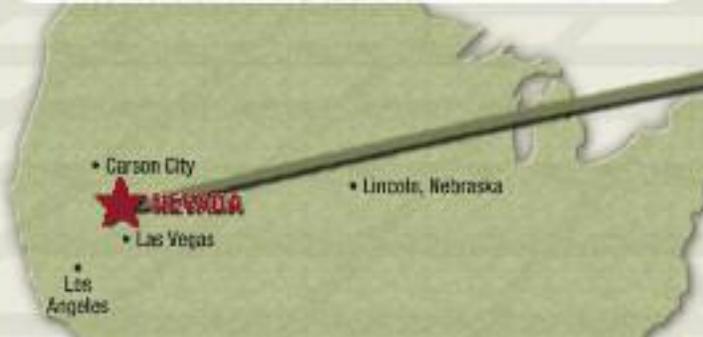


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Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**LAS VEGAS** – Lt. Col. Michael Glynn assumed command of the 1/221st Cavalry during a change of command ceremony at the Clark County Armory on June 3. Glynn took over from Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep, who served as the unit's commander since Sept. 10, 2010.

"This is the best unit in the Nevada Army National Guard. It has a good reputation and storied history. I am honored to begin command of this unit," Glynn said. "I am filling some big shoes for Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep, but this unit has historically grown good officers. I am humbled to join their ranks."

Glynn now commands about 520 Soldiers. The unit was designated the 1st Squadron, 221st Armored Reconnaissance Cavalry in September 2009, with India, Kilo, Headquarters Troops and the 777th Forward Support Company located in Las Vegas, and Lima Troop in Yerington. The unit is composed primarily of armored scouts and employs M-2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M-120 mortar guns and M-1151 armored humvees.



Master Sgt. Paula Clark, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**RENO** – Maj. Todd Hudson and Master Sgt. Terry Marshall of the 152nd Airlift Wing play a national anthem horn duet at the start of the Reno Aces Military Appreciation Day on June 1. The Aces beat the Tacoma Rainiers, 8-7.

**RENO** – The Air Guard's Lt. Col. Jo Meacham and Tech. Sgt. Colleen Glynn met with Troop 125 to pick up Girl Scout cookies sold for the Nevada Project on April 18. The girls wrote cards and letters and made bookmarks for the troops, which were placed in the box with the cookies. The boxes were mailed to two members of the Nevada Air Guard, one member of the Nevada Army Guard and one member of the active duty Army, whose brother works at Nevada Energy. As a thank-you for their time, energy and effort, the girls were given a care package with gifts from NV Energy, the Nevada Air Guard and the Veterans Guest House.



Courtesy photo



*Courtesy photo*

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – Staff Sgt. Paul Duncan, a recruiter for the Nevada Army National Guard in Las Vegas, runs in the 35th Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon and Half-Marathon on May 6. He crossed the finish line at 3:32:17, a full 47 minutes faster than the overall race average. Duncan placed 85th in a field of 1,171 runners overall, and 79th among 685 male competitors.

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Sgt. Nate Fox of the Nevada Guard's 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion checks progress on a transmission repair for a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at the Mustang Ramp on June 11. Fox, a resident of Sparks, is one of just two 1/189th Soldiers based at KAF; the majority of Nevada's aviation Soldiers are serving out of Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar Province. The battalion arrived in Afghanistan on April 30 and will return to Nevada in spring 2013.



*Spc. Tyler Meister, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Hawaii Guard*



*Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

**HOLBROOK JUNCTION, Nev.** – More than a dozen Soldiers from the Nevada Army National Guard's 1/168th MEDEVAC help battle a wildfire south of Gardnerville on May 22. The fast-moving blaze near the Nevada-California line destroyed two homes and 17 outbuildings, burned an estimated 6,750 acres and sent up huge plumes of black smoke. The flames moved away from residential areas north of Topaz Lake the next day as winds subsided along the Sierra's eastern front. At one time, between 100 and 200 homes were threatened in the Topaz Ranch Estates, about 50 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe. The Topaz Ranch Estates Fire is the fourth wildfire in seven months the Nevada Guard has battled. The Caughlin Fire destroyed homes and property in central Reno in November 2011, and the Washoe Fire was responsible for the death of one person and dozens of animals in Washoe Valley south of Reno in January, the same month that fires broke out near Elko.



*Courtesy of 92nd Civil Support Team*

**LOS ANGELES, Calif.** – Sgt. Justin Strong climbs a vertical rope ladder to board a large ship as part of maritime law enforcement training by the 92nd and 9th Civil Support teams, the U.S. Coast Guard and other local first responders at the Port of Los Angeles in early March. The sessions marked the first time that the Las Vegas-based 92nd CST trained with the U.S. Coast Guard. The 9th CST is from Los Angeles. The National Guard CSTs assist first responders during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents.



# Nevada Soldier is head of the class at Sergeants Major Academy

By Maj. Jeffrey Johnson  
Joint Force Headquarters  
Public Affairs

**RENO** – His military rank remains sergeant major, but his new nickname could be “professor.”

Nevada Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki is one of the newest instructors at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. According to State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley, Kopacki is the first Nevada Guard Soldier to land an instructor position at the Army’s esteemed senior enlisted schoolhouse.

“Only two or three Nevada Guard Soldiers, including Kopacki, have attended the resident course,” Keithley said. “His position at Fort Bliss makes him a great role model for Nevada Soldiers, and his teaching ability is a tremendous asset for the Army.”

The academy’s mission is to prepare master sergeants and first sergeants for positions in staff and command sergeant major positions at brigade and higher echelons. Only a small corps of elite noncommissioned officers are considered for instructor positions at the academy.

Kopacki said he learned about the teaching opportunity from one of his prior academy classmates. Kopacki originally sought to become a guest instructor for the nonresident course but landed a position as a full-fledged instructor.

“The whole situation is a great lesson for everyone on the importance of networking and building professional relationships,” said Kopacki, who applied for the position last year while deployed with the Nevada Guard’s Agriculture Development Team in Afghanistan.

Soldiers enrolled in the sergeants major course have two attendance options. They can either attend a nine-month resident course at Fort Bliss or participate in a nonresident course that includes two years of online classes and a two-week residence phase in Texas.

Keithley said enrollment in the academy is a prerequisite to acquiring E-9 status.

“Senior enlisted Soldiers cannot become sergeant majors unless they’ve enrolled in the sergeants major course,” Keithley said.

Kopacki’s path to Fort Bliss began with a stint on active duty as a military policeman. He then joined the Nevada Army Guard in 1997 and became a truck driver for the 1864th Medium Truck Company. After several years of gaining experience and honing his leadership skills, he deployed to Iraq with the 1864th in 2005 as its first sergeant.

Kopacki’s military occupation mirrors his civilian occupation as a truck driver.

Kopacki enjoys being an instructor because of his enthusiastic students and the favorable learning environment at the

academy. Instructors at the academy act as facilitators for experience- and lesson-sharing among students. After a decade of war, the students have plenty of material to share.

“A lot of the curriculum mirrors the officers’ intermediate level education courses,” Kopacki said.

Kopacki’s counsel to sergeants and privates is simple.

“My advice to young Soldiers is to take stock of where you are in your career and ask some easy questions,” Kopacki said. “For example: What is your fitness level? To be a leader, you must lead from the front and display that you can pass the fitness test easily at any time.

“Also, analyze your military and civilian educational levels and decide if they are commensurate with your current or next higher grade. Everyone should know how to professionally conduct training on drill weekends. Finally, strive to attain positions that will improve the organization and yourself.”

The Sergeants Major Academy was established in 1972 and graduated its first class of 105 sergeants major in 1973. Some of the academy’s responsibilities include developing leadership training for all of the Army’s basic and advanced noncommissioned officer courses and the production of the magazine “NCO Journal.” ■

## Kopacki’s advice for Soldiers, Airmen

- Stay in shape
- Seek out professional development courses
- Pursue civilian education opportunities
- Seek out a variety of military occupations and positions
- Don’t let combat skills deteriorate
- Keep your civilian employer informed about your military activity



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki stands front and center among a group of instructors at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. His advice to young troops: “Take stock of where you are in your career.”

# New Soldier brings fix-it skills to Guard

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**LAS VEGAS** – “They are really tight, like family. Everyone really made me feel welcome.”

Those were Pvt. Steven Thompson’s impressions about his first drill weekend in May. A brand new wheeled vehicle mechanic in the maintenance shop of the 17th Sustainment Brigade at the Las Vegas Readiness Center, he thought he’d be turning the wrench on some five-ton truck or Humvee, but like any first day on the job, he didn’t really know what to expect. “I was nervous to see how it would actually be,” Thompson said.

On the second day, he found himself heading out to the firing range. Fighting off knots in his stomach on the 30-minute bus ride to a patch of sizzling desert near the Floyd Edsall Training Center on the north side of Las Vegas, he joined the firing order with just his M-16 rifle. “Where’s your gear?” asked the range supervisor. Within seconds, a fellow Soldier had produced helmet, eye protection and web gear.

That Soldier was the brigade’s senior supply sergeant, who noted the fresh-faced, wiry Thompson was so new to the unit that his equipment had yet to arrive. “It’s for the love of Soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Damon Gray about loaning his gear to Thompson. “I’ll gladly give what I have to Soldiers in a heartbeat.”

Thompson joined the National Guard a few months after graduating from Shadow Ridge High School in June 2011. He played football and wrestled for the Mustangs at 135 pounds. Since swearing in at the Military Entrance Processing Station on Sept. 9, he’s a changed man, weighing nearly a buck-fifty, thanks to Army chow.

“I went to all the recruiters and wanted to know what would benefit me most,” Thompson said. “I wanted to specialize in diesel mechanics mostly, because of my hobby. I think about college, too. So, I looked at the different military occupational specialties and saw this as a chance to advance. Signing up with the National Guard, I felt I had more opportunity.”

After attending basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and advanced individual training for becoming a mechanic at Fort Lee, Va., Thompson says, “If it has wheels, then we can fix it.”

And fixing rolling stock isn’t anything new to Thompson. His hobby is restoring



*Pvt. Steven Thompson, 19, served his first drill in the maintenance shop of the 17th Sustainment Brigade at the Las Vegas Readiness Center on May 31. The wheeled vehicle mechanic brings his talent of restoring classic cars to the Nevada National Guard. His 1977 Chevrolet Camaro is one of more than 175 vehicles brought back to life at his family’s auto restoration business.*

old cars. His family owns and operates Romprey Classic Cars near the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. What started in his stepdad’s garage when Thompson was only 15 years old is now a thriving business.

Thompson estimates that the shop has restored between 175 and 200 classic cars. These days, Thompson drives a ’77 Chevrolet Camaro that he bought from his stepdad for \$1,300. He figures it’s worth about \$12,000, maybe a little more. “My Camaro was made when there was a gas shortage,” said Thompson, proud to rattle off a little history about his passion. “Chevrolet and other automakers made engine blocks with bigger combustion chambers, which meant less horse power. So, muscle cars weren’t that popular.”

Thompson turned 19 this past summer, as he joined a crop of young Soldiers, representing the next generation for the Nevada Army National Guard. “I’m really the first person in my family to join the military,” he said. “My stepdad’s dad was in the Air Force. That’s it.”

Other than that, Thompson’s only other connection with military is just as distant. His mother, whose family hails from Tonapah, Nev., attended high school with Chief Warrant Officer Lloyd Allen, a Nevada Guard Soldier who travelled a similar route, taking initial training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and working as a wheeled vehicle mechanic most of his career.

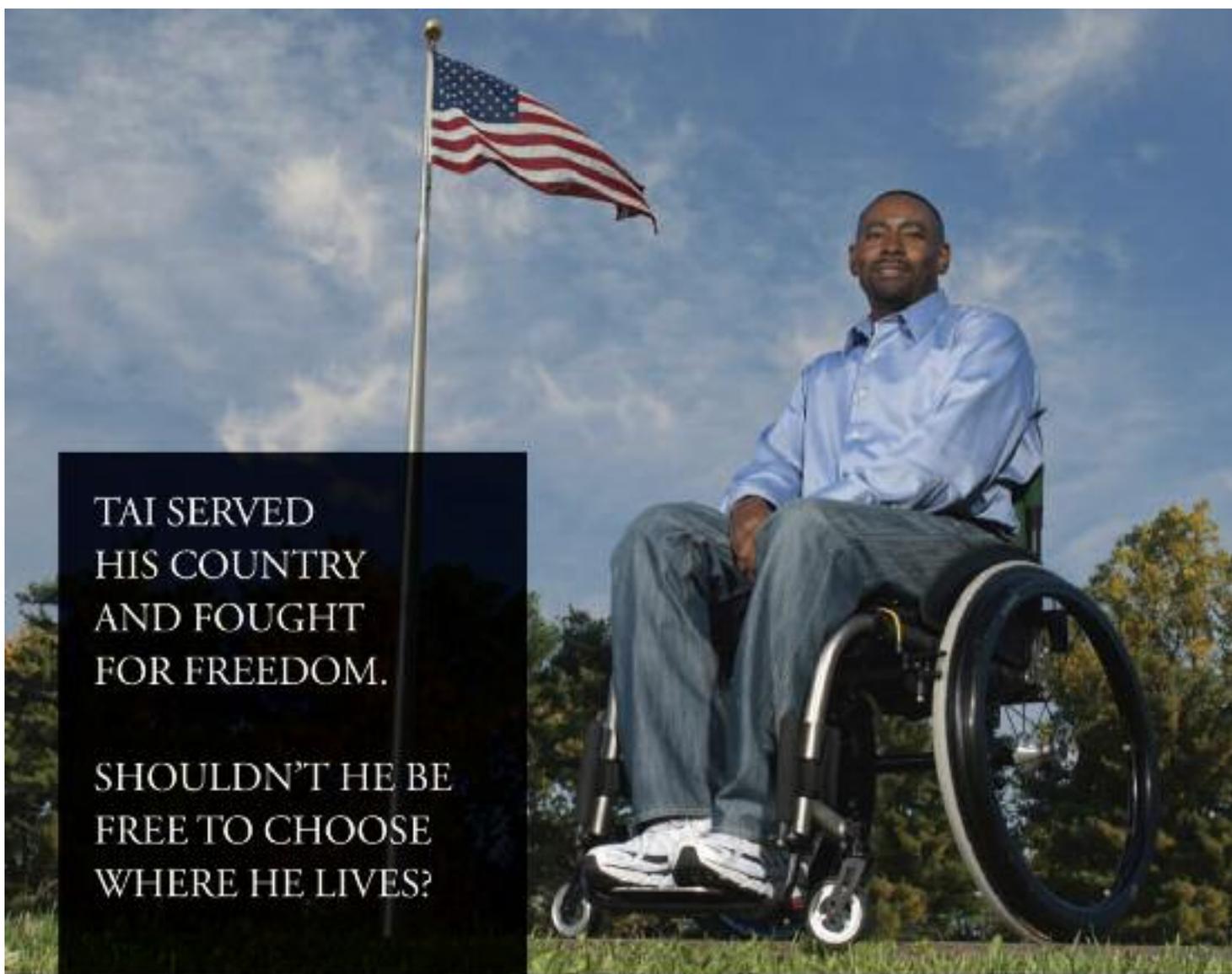
“I have mentored many young Soldiers like Thompson, bringing them up from the junior ranks. One of them became a warrant officer,” said Allen, who is now the motor officer for the 17th Special Troops Battalion. “I believe most young Soldiers come in motivated and eager to learn. With good leadership, they’ll continue down the right path.”

Thompson’s enlistment coincides with a brigade still less than a year old. While some of the unit’s Soldiers retire, others transfer in from the Nevada Guard’s other units, or show up fresh from Army advanced individual training. Feeling part of the family, Thompson is already taking a ribbing from some older Soldiers in the maintenance shop as they share the tales of various initiation rites.

“There was one new guy who we told to jump-start a Humvee,” said Spc. Andre Hines, a veteran maintenance Soldier of eight years. The young Guardsman clearly didn’t understand how to do that, Hines said, so he started pushing up and down on the hood of the vehicle thinking, maybe praying, the engine was going to turn over.

“Now, that story is out,” Hines laughed. “We’ll have to try something else”

Looking forward to drills and turning wrenches, Thompson’s off to a good start making friends and getting some trigger time. And to top off a happy beginning, he qualified expert at the firing range. ■



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## Quartermaster Soldier reigns with triple crown of

# Nevada beauty pageants

By Lt. Col. Terry Conder  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**LAS VEGAS** – In the arena of Nevada beauty pageants, Sgt. Aileen Buri holds the triple crown.

After claiming the Miss Las Vegas and Little Miss Nevada Talent Supreme titles within the past year, Buri won the Miss Nevada State contest in March to add a third jewel to her pageant tiara.

“It’s great to show people another aspect of military service members,” said Buri, a water treatment sergeant in the 100th Quartermaster Company headquartered here.

Buri began competing in beauty pageants just last year. She’s been in the Nevada Army Guard four years.

“I enjoy performing community service and raising money for charities,” she said. “I discovered that when you show up at a casino wearing a sash and a crown, people are more willing to give.”

Buri said being a Soldier in the Nevada Guard has contributed to her success in the pageants.

“Competing in a pageant is competitive, just like much of what we do in the Army,” she said. “I learned in basic training to always finish what I start. I also learned how to prepare myself both mentally and physically. I find myself doing the same things getting ready for a pageant.

“Being in the Guard has taught me that I can do so much more than what I initially believed I could do.”

Buri won her most recent crown, Miss Nevada State, based on her results in three portions of the event including evening



*Courtesy photo*

**Sgt. Aileen Buri donned a vintage-style uniform for the Miss Nevada State competition in Las Vegas.**

gown, talent and open-choice competitions.

“I performed a Tahitian dance for the talent section, and for open-choice I did a salute to the military by wearing a 1950s style Class A uniform,” she said.

In her civilian occupation, Buri is an assistant hotel manager at the Vdara Hotel and Spa.

“I love being in the Guard, and I love my unit,” Buri said. “We have especially good leadership – they take good care of us.”

Buri has two years remaining on her enlistment, and she hopes to achieve the rank of staff sergeant soon. As she

approaches the end of her enlistment, Buri said the feeling is “bittersweet.”

“A lot of people say they can’t wait to get out, but when the time comes, they almost always reenlist,” Buri said. “There’s nothing like being in the Guard. There’s nothing like going to drill and feeling the pride associated with wearing your uniform.

“I believe if I reenlist, I’d like to try to become an officer.”

Buri said she’s likely “done for now” in regard to beauty pageants.

“But after I get married, I think I’d like to try for Mrs. America,” she quickly added. ■



# Nevada Guard Soldiers

## KEEP WATCH ON SOUTHERN BORDER

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

**PHOENIX** — Doing their part to stem illegal activity along the Mexican border, three Nevada Guardsmen joined the ranks of 82 Guardsmen from several states to support the Department of Homeland Security mission.

The operation is headed by the U.S. Border Patrol who ramps up its numbers at the Tucson Sector to seal the border against drug traffickers and illegals. About 2,900 agents currently patrol the sector that covers the southwest corner of Arizona. It's just one of nine sectors that cover 1,969 miles of fence line from California to Texas.

The Tucson Sector stretches from the Yuma County line to New Mexico. It covers a total of 262 border miles and is the busiest sector in the nation in both illegals captures and marijuana seizures.

The Nevada Soldiers, two OH-58 Kiowa pilots and one crew chief from 3/140th

Aviation Regiment, arrived at Silver Bell Army Heliport in Tucson to provide aviation support on March 1; they are due to wind up their tour Dec. 31. Chief warrant officers Rob McAfee and Cort McAllister, both pilots, have combined for 500 drug captures out of 1,721 in just three months. Combined patrols along the Southwest border netted almost 4.1 million pounds of narcotics in 2010, according to the CBP.

"These Soldiers are on the front lines," said Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the Adjutant General of Nevada. "They are stemming the flow of people and narcotics. Anything that is stopped here won't make it to Nevada. Secondly, anything these Soldiers learn here, they can bring back to teach other Soldiers back in our state."

McAfee, 40, who has flown drug interdiction missions for Nevada since 2006, says, "It's different flying over the desert. Pilots from other states either love it or hate it." He shares his experiences with other crews and cautions them about the

high winds and the hazards of the unique terrain and foliage.

He also described the challenges of spotting fresh footprints in washes, illegals hugging trees to avoid being seen from the air, and the hundreds of thousands of illegals from Mexico and other Latin American countries that risk their lives to make it across the border. "Some of them carry 40-pound drug loads over hundreds of miles of barren and mountainous terrain. Some of these guys are in pretty good shape."

McAllister, 38, brings his own unique experiences to the table. He flew with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Grafenwohr, Germany, on active duty and served as the contract officer at the maintenance facility in Daggett, Calif., which is part of Fort Irwin, home of the National Training Center.

"I have had to rely a lot on my past experiences," McAllister said. "But there's a lot that's different about this mission that makes it a challenge. In a sense, we're searching for people carrying drugs, and

◀ A simple fence marks the border between the United States and Mexico along the Casa Grande region of the Tucson Sector. Illegals and drug traffickers walk along the miles of washes heading to points north, including Nevada.

looking for vehicles in the middle of the desert. At times, they are hard to spot.”

Crew chief Pfc. Tevin Wright, 19, volunteered for the job with just 14 months in the Army and was assigned to 3/140th Aviation Regiment, based at Stead. “Our commander asked who wanted to go to the border, and I raised my hand,” he said. “I’ve learned a lot in a short time, and Mr. McAfee has taught me a lot in how to take care of the log books. I have to check off on everything. And it’s just like the Army teaches you, about attention to detail. Without the log books, there’s no mission. We don’t fly.”

About 30 Guard volunteers have joined the 52 from Arizona to support the mission in the Tucson Sector, according to Maj. Bill Karlage, operations officer for the Joint Task Force in Arizona. These Soldiers and Airmen serve as analysts or in support of aviation. California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas lead current operations along other sectors of the Southwest border. ■



*Pfc. Tevin Wright, a Nevada National Guard crew chief, prepares the Kiowa for Chief Warrant Officer Rob McAfee, who scans the Tucson Sector in support of U.S. Border Patrol agents. Patrols aim to prevent entry of illegals and drug traffickers.*

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# NEVADA AIR GUARD

## OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

Story by Master Sgt. Gloria Odion  
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**RENO** – For the first time in 15 years, the Nevada Air National Guard opened its gates to the community on June 9. The Air Guard wanted to show its appreciation for the community's support, and showcase the military's hardware and the service members who use it.

In spite of cool, breezy weather, thousands flocked to the Grand Sierra Resort to board buses that took them to the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno for activities at the Air Guard's open house.

"I thought this show had an excellent turnout and great aircraft display," said retired Capt. Richard Lamb of Carson City. Lamb, a Vietnam veteran, came to the open house because he is an avid fan of aircraft and aviation history. "All the military personnel, especially those by the aircraft,



Hundreds of visitors stand in line to board the C-5 Galaxy cargo plane from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

were very helpful and answered all my questions."

There was something for everyone at the base. Hundreds of children waited in line for the climbing wall manned by Air Guard recruiters. A variety of aircraft displays sat along the flight line and hangars. Visitors marveled at the P-51 Mustang, which is part of the Nevada Air National Guard's roots, and the MQ9A-Reaper, one of the Nevada Air Guard's most recent additions. The two planes were

among more than a dozen on display from around the country.

"The Reaper is my favorite display so far," said Chris Seifert, son of Master Sgt. William Seifert of Reno.

Because of its sheer size, many were drawn to the C-5 Galaxy from Travis Air



Brendan Steelman and Lucas Reccelle, both 13-year-old students at Sierra Nevada Charter School, check out their reflections in the nose propeller of the Pilatus Business Aircraft, PC-12.



Air Force First Lt. Addison Harding, an instructor pilot at Laughlin Air Base, Texas, explains the controls in the cockpit of a T-6A Texan II to Leah Olsen, 8, of Reno.



*Senior Airman Christian Cattell, a C-130 loadmaster for Nevada's 192nd Airlift Squadron, explains the engines on the aircraft to Sherry and Don Moorehouse of Reno. Sherry, whose father was a retired Army lieutenant colonel, said she loves the military. "I appreciate their level of patriotism. We don't get this opportunity every day." Cattell has served with the Guard for three years and hopes to one day pilot the cargo plane.*

Force Base, Calif. The steady crowd waited patiently in line to board the aircraft and stand on its flight deck and take in the magnificent 360-degree view. Others enjoyed walking through and around the giant cargo plane that stands five stories tall.

Various groups from the Air National Guard staffed several interactive exhibits.

I think I am going to come and work here someday," said CJ Malone, 7, a resident of Sacramento.

The 192nd Airlift Squadron Combat Survival Training Group displayed various rafts and floats on which the children bounced up and down. A host of other young explorers wanted to be part of the Nevada



*Master Sgt. Ben Clary, a flight engineer at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., talks with Primo Quarisa, a veteran of the Army's 101st Air Assault Division, about the C-5 Galaxy cargo plane. Clary has logged more than 10,000 hours of flight time in missions to Iraq and Afghanistan. The giant aircraft has the capacity to carry two M-1 tanks or 400 tons of cargo.*

Air Guard firefighters as they looked in and around the unit's emergency vehicles.

Nevada Department of Public Safety officers flashed the lights of patrol vehicles parked along the flight line. The 152nd Airlift Wing's Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Allen and fellow officers offered guests a closer look, helping them into a patrol helicopter and trucks.

The Nevada Guard Family Programs office provided handouts that informed guests about some of the services provided to Guard members and their families. The 152nd Security Forces Squadron gave visitors a chance to hold some of the weapons they use.

The 152nd Medical Group showed an ambulatory patient care setup featuring the Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package or CERFP.

In the fuel cell hangar, different groups educated visitors on their functions in relation to the National Guard. These included the Key Volunteers, Sparks Police Explorers, the Civil Air Patrol, the 152nd Airlift Wing First Sergeant's Council, the Company Grade Officer Council and the Heritage Foundation. ■



*Air Guard recruiter Tech. Sgt. Christina Miller assists one of the hundreds of children with a safety harness as they attempt to scale the portable climbing wall.*

*The dynamic duo of Delana Cardenas, left, and Yvette Weigold are ready to attempt to resolve any issue Nevada service members and their dependents may encounter. They both work at the Family Assistance Center at the Floyd Edsall Training Center, 6400 Range Road, in Las Vegas.*



## Southern Nevada assistance center is home base for family readiness

*Story and photo by Lt. Col. Terry Conder  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

**LAS VEGAS** – The blockbuster movie “Act of Valor” begins with a commander informing his men that they’ve been tasked with an important mission. The commander tells his troops to get things right with their families, because if things are not good at home, they won’t be at their best on the mission.

The old cliché “If the military wanted Soldiers and Airmen to have wives or husbands, it would have issued them” is long gone. It’s no secret the strength of a Guardsman’s family relationships is a key factor in how well a Soldier or Airman will perform on a deployment.

The Department of Defense is also well aware of that fact. That’s why Delana Cardenas, Yvette Weigold and Joe Pratt have some of the most vital jobs within the Nevada National Guard: ensuring readi-

ness by helping Guard members and their families.

Cardenas, Weigold and Pratt comprise the staff at the Family Assistance Center at the Floyd Edsall Training Center (aka Clark County Armory), 6400 Range Road, in Las Vegas.

Several other organizations and officials are also housed in the center, including the Yellow Ribbon manager and event coordinator, the state youth coordinator, the employment enhancement program, an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office, the survivor outreach services office, a director of psychological health, a master resilience trainer and an identification card station.

The Family Assistance Center has six primary areas of focus, according to Weigold.

“We help with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, military identification acquisition, legal resources, TRICARE and other medical insurance issues, financial

resource referrals, notary services and crisis intervention,” she said

“Regardless of the issue, we will do our best to help locate a resource to resolve it,” said Cardenas, the child and youth program director.

One service the center can’t provide is monetary assistance.

“The office does not have any cash available,” Cardenas said. “But we do have connections to organizations in the community that may be able to financially assist Soldiers, Airmen and families.”

Weigold said civilians and even charity organizations often have misconceptions about the National Guard.

“Many civilians believe that National Guardsmen have the same pay and benefits as active duty service members,” Weigold said. “They don’t realize that our troops are part-timers who only receive full-time pay and medical benefits when on active duty.”

The part-time employment aspect of the National Guard is one of the most prevalent topics the center deals with continually.

“One would think most of the problems we deal with are deployment related,” said Weigold. “In reality, the biggest issue our Guardsmen face is returning from a deployment with no set job. Finances – that’s at the top of the list.”

Cardenas added that pre-deployment employment among Guardsmen remains a huge issue, mirroring the poor job environment that exists throughout the state.

Fortunately, Cardenas, Weigold and Pratt have good relationships with a number of community organizations that continually step forward to support service members who need help.

“Operation Home Front, Los Vaqueros (a group of local businessmen) and United

Way are especially helpful,” Weigold said.

Dealing with families in crisis, financial difficulties and domestic problems can be stressful, but Weigold and Cardenas said working in the Family Assistance Center gives them plenty of satisfaction.

“I’ve spent a lot of sleepless nights thinking, ‘How am I going to help this family?’” Weigold said. “But I also get a lot of satisfaction working here. The best thing is when we actually fix a problem and not just put a Band-Aid on something.”

Cardenas said it’s her goal to resolve issues rather than settling for temporary quick fixes.

“I recently heard from a family that had been struggling,” Cardenas said. “They told me, ‘You started the ball rolling in the right direction, and we’re still moving in the right direction.’ I thought that was a neat

way to say we were on the way to lasting solutions.”

John Strahan, the Nevada Guard’s state family program director, said the family assistance team in Las Vegas isn’t the biggest, but is among the best.

“The Family Assistance Center in Las Vegas is staffed by knowledgeable professionals who’ve proved their dedication to serving the needs of National Guard families time and time again,” Strahan said.

The Family Assistance Center is on the second floor of the Clark County Armory. Services are available to all National Guard, reserve and active duty service members from every military branch. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The toll free phone number for assistance at any time is (866) 699-3128. ■

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# Air Guard rapper's educational VIDEO becomes Internet success

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**CARSON CITY** – An educational video produced by Nevada Air Guard Staff Sgt. Demurtus Brown has become a YouTube sensation with his classmates at his medical technician course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Brown produced his video, complete with poetry and songs, to help his fellow students pass the course.

Brown, 30, said it was a no-brainer to put his musical talents as a rap artist to good use and create the educational video. His rapper nickname is, not coincidentally, “Sergeant Murk.”

“I always found it easier to remember things when I made them rhyme or made songs,” Brown said. “With my music put aside to focus on tech school, I thought I could still hone my skills and learn at the same time by making songs using the reading material.”

Brown, the class’s leader, said he believed students would grasp the information quickly if the chapters were presented in a fun and creative manner.

“I would read through the text and devise ways to rhyme important facts,” he said. “I realized the material would be easier to understand if I had a visual as well.”

It took him just two days to record and post the educational video on YouTube.

The video proved to be a hit, even with subsequent medical technician classes. Many of the students viewed the video to



*Nevada Air Guard Staff Sgt. Demurtus Brown, aka Sergeant Murk, performs during the “Artists for Obama” event in Las Vegas just before the 2008 presidential election. Brown recently produced an educational video that’s become an internet sensation among medical students at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.*  
Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Demurtus Brown

study for tests, and instructors even showed the educational and entertaining video to classes.

“If I am able to help others learn easier, it makes all the work I put into my projects worthwhile,” Brown said.

Although the video hasn’t gone viral nationwide, the video did catch the attention of Nathan Hox, an emergency medical technician instructor in Florida who replays the video during his civilian EMT classes.

“The video lightens the atmosphere in the classroom,” Hox said. “Sometimes it’s difficult to keep students engaged in the topic, so videos like the one Murk produced really help out.”

Brown, who serves with the 152nd Medical Support Group in Reno, began his musical career while deployed to Mosul, Iraq, in 2004 with the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron. While riding in the back of “deuce-and-a-half” trucks delivering supplies, he would scribble rhymes in a notebook.

“One day, I misplaced my composition book. I was pretty upset about it,” said

Brown, who joined the Mississippi Air Guard just two days before 9/11. “But my mother said to pray about it, and a week later an Army troop showed up at my door with the book. I took it as a sign that I should keep writing.”

After a six-month deployment in Iraq, he landed in Las Vegas and worked with security forces. He eventually wound his way back Meridian, Miss., only to be met by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina.

In the wake of the catastrophe, Brown saw the opportunity for a fresh start. He returned to Las Vegas and joined the Nevada Air Guard to work in health services administration. At the same time, he also saw a chance to pursue his music career.

After six years in administration, the self-proclaimed career Airman developed enough of an interest in health care to begin training as a medical technician.

Brown graduated from his medical technician course in late May.

“Joining the Nevada Air Guard is one of the best decisions I’ve made in my life,” Brown said. ■

*Link to the video:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXssBU4JTv0&feature=relmfu>



## Devine takes command of 422nd Signal

**LAS VEGAS** – Lt. Col. Mary Devine assumed command of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion during a change of command ceremony at the Las Vegas Readiness Center on April 15.

Devine took over from Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hanson, who recently returned with the unit from a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Hanson transferred to the logistics section of Joint Force Headquarters in Carson City.

During the ceremony, Devine said she is proud of the opportunity to take command of such an outstanding unit and will ensure that the unit continues to succeed.

She now commands about 400 Signal Soldiers who engineer, install and maintain tactical and strategic communication networks to deliver information from the field to almost anywhere in the world. Hanson described the battalion as the “AT&T of the battlefield” during his last deployment.

The 422nd ESB maintains units in Reno, Las Vegas and Arizona.

## Air Guard recruiter wins national honor

**CARSON CITY** – Nevada Air National Guard’s Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley took top honors as the recruiting office supervisor for 2011 at a ceremony and Retention Training Conference in New Orleans on March 20. It was an event that recognized top Air Guard recruiters across the nation.

“I am humbled to receive this award,” said Dudley, a Nashville native who has served 16 years in the Nevada Air Guard. Dudley is currently assigned to the Air National Guard Headquarters recruiting office in Carson City.

The 38-year-old senior NCO earned distinction in 2011 by achieving 150 percent of his recruiting goal, thus gaining distinction in Region 1 and earning the prestigious Air National Guard Gold Recruiting Badge. Boosting his success, he recruited 17 Airmen and 19 officers into the Nevada Air National Guard. And for that, after taking regional

honors, his name was automatically entered into the national competition.

## Construction on Nevada Guard maintenance shop begins

**LAS VEGAS** – Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the adjutant general for Nevada, hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on April 13 that marked the beginning of construction on the state-of-the-art Nevada Army Guard Las Vegas Field Maintenance Shop.

The Las Vegas FMS, adjacent to the Las Vegas Readiness Center, is located at 4500 W. Silverado Ranch Boulevard. The shop will replace the Nevada Guard’s current shop in Henderson that has stood since 1971.

When completed, the field maintenance shop will provide field and sustainment support for more than 10 southern Nevada Army Guard units. It will conduct maintenance on a variety of wheeled and tracked vehicles, small arms equipment, and communications and electronics devices.

Most of the \$23 million budget for the shop comes from federal money. When completed, the approximately 67,000-square-foot facility will include vehicle maintenance bays, tool shops, storage rooms, administrative offices, a break room, a locker room and additional military support space.

## Three Nevada employers up for Freedom Award

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, announced on April 19 that three Nevada employers have been selected as semifinalists for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the highest recognition given by the DoD to employers for exceptional support of their Guard and Reserve employees.

This year, 133 semifinalists nationwide stood out among an impressive pool of 3,236 nominees. The Nevada employers named semifinalists are GE Measurement & Control Solutions, Carson City; the Nevada



Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell, 152nd Airlift Wing

*Master Sgt. Jason Barlow of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron receives two degrees from the Community College of the Air Force presented by Col. Jeff Burkett, commander of the 152nd Airlift Wing.*

Department of Transportation, Carson City; and THOR Construction, Las Vegas.

## Air Guard graduates three with associate degrees

**CARSON CITY** – Three High Rollers graduated with four associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force during a ceremony at the Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno on June 3.

The college is one of several federally chartered degree-granting institutions but is the only two-year institution exclusively serving enlisted personnel. The college offers more than 2,000 mission-related courses, and nearly 6,000 instructors teach CCAF courses at affiliate schools worldwide.

This year, the college awarded the following degrees to Nevada Air Guard service members: Master Sgt. Jason Barlow, 152nd Intelligence Squadron, for Communications Application Technology and Multimedia Production Services; Tech. Sgt. Nicole Stoudt, 192nd Airlift Squadron, for Aviation Operations; and Senior Airman Bartley O’Toole, 192nd Airlift Squadron, for Survival Equipment.

Since issuing its first degree in 1977, the college has awarded more than 362,000 associate in applied science degrees.

– *Compiled from JFHQ Public Affairs reports*

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# DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

## 593rd Transportation Company: Brink's of Afghanistan

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**FALLON** – During the next nine months, the Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard's 593rd Transportation Company will resemble Brink's armored transportation corporation employees in multi-cam uniforms.

Driving mine-resistant, armor-protected vehicles, the 593rd Soldiers began shuttling a variety of valuables among the forward operating bases in the Regional Command-Capital area of Afghanistan last month. The valuables include supplies, materiel and, most important, U.S. service members.

"It's going to be a challenging deployment," said company commander Capt. Curtis Kolvet. "We have a versatile group of Soldiers who will provide convoy security as well as run numerous trips transporting supplies and personnel to outlying FOBs."

The company has detachments in Reno, Winnemucca, Elko and Las Vegas and includes about 120 drivers, maintainers and recovery specialists. The 593rd marked the beginning of its deployment with a ceremony in Reno on May 26. The unit then

trained at Fort Hood, Texas, for several weeks before traveling to Afghanistan.

The 593rd is the first Nevada Army Guard unit to serve in both combat theaters since the Global War on Terrorism began. About a dozen 593rd Soldiers will be able to say they served in both Iraq and Afghanistan with the unit when the mission concludes next year.

"Many of the current staff sergeants deployed as privates years ago with the unit," said 1st Sgt. Harry Schroeder. "A lot of



*Capt. Curtis Kolvet, company commander for the 593rd Transportation Company, spends time with his daughter, Cora, after the deployment ceremony at Wooster High School on May 26. Kolvet's cousin, Capt. Robert Kolvet, commands the 485th Military Police Company, also serving in Afghanistan.*



*Pfc. Edward Trujillo, left, a gunner in the 593rd Transportation Company, receives instructions on how to complete a Mark 19 combat check from Staff Sgt. Wes Brockmann during predeployment training in April.*

young volunteers have stepped up to fill positions in the 593rd. They know it's time for them to do their part in the conflict."

Schroeder said a wide variety of Nevada Soldiers, including signal corps, cavalry, engineers and military policemen, volunteered to join the 593rd on its deployment.

"With our varied backgrounds, we'll do well at our transportation mission and also be ready for anything else that comes our way," said Sgt. Michael Xavier, who himself volunteered to become a motor transport operator with the 593rd after beginning his career as a maintenance specialist with the 150th Maintenance Company in Carson City.

In 2005-2006, the 593rd was deployed in Iraq and conducted combat logistical patrols. During that deployment, the unit drove truck tractors and pulled trailers repositioned in Iraq.

On this deployment, the company will transport goods and personnel using MRAP-all terrain vehicles (M-ATVs), RG-33 MRAPs and MaxxPro MRAPs.

To help the unit's drivers transition from their usual M915A3 truck tractors to the MRAPs, more than 50 of the 593rd Soldiers attended MRAP University at Red River Army Depot in Texas last spring to learn the vehicles' capabilities and traits. The entire unit then conducted pre-deployment training in conjunction with its annual training in April.

"It's a good group of Soldiers to go with," Kolvet said. "The unit has competent, capable, experienced and motivated Soldiers." ■



*Sgt. Terry Gamble, left, guides Staff Sgt. Curtis Terry through the M-9 pistol qualification range during the 593rd Transportation Company's predeployment training in April. The company's more than 120 Soldiers are now in Afghanistan transporting cargo and personnel among forward operating bases.*

# 485th Military Police unit arrives home to cheers, hugs, kisses

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**CARSON CITY** – The Nevada Army Guard's 485th Military Police Company arrived home to Nevada July 25 with hundreds of family and friends by their sides in Reno and Las Vegas. About 20 Soldiers touched down at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and another 90 arrived at Atlantic Aviation in Reno about 8:30 in the evening. A handful of others returned home to neighboring states.

More than 400 friends and family were on hand at Atlantic at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport to welcome home their Soldiers. Gene Kuhfuss was waiting on the flightline to welcome home his son, Staff Sgt. Matthew Kuhfuss. "We've been waiting a long time for him to come home," the former Marine said. "This is a good day."

In Las Vegas, Soldiers returned home piecemeal on several flights throughout the day. At each arrival, though, volunteers from the USO cheered and encouraged passersby to join in.

"It's exciting to be back," said Sgt. Jeremy Murphy. "It's nice to see everything and everyone. I'm going for some authentic Mexican food – I need some enchiladas."

Murphy's advice to families coping with Soldiers down range included, "Just be there for them, and if you're having a hard time, don't be afraid to tell them and to support one another."

For family members, the deployment meant coping with the absence of their Soldiers and thoughts about their safety.

"It's been very long, and just a lot of prayers," said Denise Haney, Murphy's mother. "Not knowing if he was inside the base, outside the base, what he was doing. You never knew. We missed his birthday which was in early July, and I didn't send him packages because I was afraid they would cross. So, we're going to do a birthday celebration today."



Maj. April Conway Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

*Families and friends in Reno catch the first glimpse of the aircraft bringing home Soldiers of the 485th Military Police Company.*

"Glad to have my son back on friendly ground," said Willette Espinoza, Staff Sgt. Mike Espinoza's mother. "I have to say that Skype is the most awesome thing. He got to see the birth of his Damian while he was over there. He was born on June 2nd, one day before Mike's birthday. In Afghanistan it was already June 3rd. So, they got to celebrate their birthdays together."

"I'm excited and nervous, too, because things have changed," said Espinoza's wife, Daniela. "I'm so used to being by myself all the time. He had served two tours almost back to back. In between, he was only home for three months. It was sad when Damian was born because he was the one person I wanted to be here."

The 485th Military Police Company served at Bagram, Afghanistan, and provided



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

*Spc. Nickolas Farriolo and his girlfriend, Silvana, savor the moment at his homecoming in Las Vegas.*



Maj. April Conway Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

*Hundreds of guests were on hand to welcome home the Soldiers of the 485th.*

security at the Parwan Province Detainment Facility administered by Regional Command – East. Nevada Guard Soldiers were assigned to Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435, the detention facility located at Camp Sabalu-Harrison. During their tour, the Guardsmen helped secure a detainee population of up to 2,400 individuals. The Reno-based unit is led by Capt. Robert Kolvet and 1st Sgt. Steve Lawrence. ■

# SPORTS NEWS

## Cav trooper region's top warrior

Story and photos by Spc. Grant Larson  
69th Public Affairs Detachment

**CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.** – Battling to become the best warrior, 15 National Guard gladiators tested their skills during four tough days beginning April 22 at the 2012 Army National Guard Region VII Competition.

Nevada Guard Soldiers Spc. Julian Batz, 29, a cavalry scout with Kilo Troop, 1/221st Armored Reconnaissance Cavalry, proved his mettle as best Soldier, and Staff Sgt. Larry Harlan, a human resources specialist with the 17th Sustainment Brigade, finished second among NCOs. Harlan was edged by Staff Sgt. Eugene Patton, 37, of the Colorado Army National Guard's 117th Space Battalion. If Patton for some reason cannot compete at the next level, Harlan will go. If not, Harlan will coach Batz at the national level.

The California Army National Guard played host to eight NCOs and seven Soldiers representing Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Guam. These 15 troopers slugged it out first at their respective local levels to earn a berth in regional competition.

"I gave it a halfhearted attempt last year. I didn't make it past the squadron level.

This year, I was asked by my unit to do better. And, honestly, I don't like losing," Batz said. "This kind of competition raises the bar for Soldiers that want to reach beyond the state level. They have the chance to meet other high caliber Soldiers from around the country. I gained valuable experience and a new perspective that will one day translate into higher quality leadership when I reach the NCO ranks. I feel if I am able to look my competitor in the eye, I compete at a much higher level. That motivates me."

Soldiers, aware of the 16-hour days ahead, took advantage of a good night's rest for action on Day 1. Early in the morning on Day 1, competitors charged through the revamped physical fitness tests for combat and readiness. The day's other events included day and night land navigation, water survival, and a road march set at an unknown distance.

Later, the Soldiers engaged targets in a combat scenario, wound through an obstacle course and went head to head in a combatives tournament. Batz bested his combatives foes while Harlan finished first in the distance run. Harlan boasted a personal best time of 20 minutes in the two-mile rucksack run, but finished 20 points behind Patton.



*Staff Sgt. Larry Harlan nears the end of the road march. The distance was a mystery to the Soldiers, who had only 15 minutes to change clothing after completing the swim event during the Army National Guard's Region VII competition held at San Luis Obispo, Calif., in April.*

"There was no chance to rest between events, and organizers extended the competition from three days to four," Harlan said. "We were moving nonstop from one event to the next. That was the toughest part. Our days would start at 6 a.m. and go until 11 p.m."

Competitors began Day 2 in the swimming pool. As part of water skills survival, competitors retrieved color-coded canteens, treaded water for five minutes, and then hauled a 30-pound rucksack and rubber rifle the length of the pool. Competitors were required to keep their ears above water and their feet from pushing off the walls.

After their aquatic adventure, the Soldiers started the foot march not knowing how far they would have to go. They carried a rifle and 35 pounds or more in rucksacks.

Utah's Staff Sgt. Craig Pace, 37, finished the six-mile route in 1:24, one minute ahead of Batz.

By afternoon, Soldiers displayed their combat skills in military operations on urban terrain, tossing grenades, clearing a building to rescue a casualty, requesting a



*Spc. Julian Batz shakes the hand of a fellow opponent during a match in which he was awarded a win by submission. Batz earned second place in the combatives tournament during the Army National Guard's Region VII competition held at San Luis Obispo, Calif., in April.*



*Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, the post commander for the training center at Camp Roberts, Calif., presents the Army Commendation Medal to Spc. Julian Batz for his victory as best Soldier in the Army National Guard's Region VII competition held at San Luis Obispo, Calif., in April.*

medical evacuation and firing paint rounds from the M-320 grenade launcher.

On Day 3, competitors ran through an obstacle course. They weaved through a tiered crossbeam structure up 10 feet, and descended into a sandpit during the timed event in which Soldiers were not allowed to watch their rivals. During the second phase of obstacles, troops crawled under a chain-link fence, dragged a 135-pound dummy through sand and under barbed wire, then climbed a 20-foot rope, and lastly, pulled a 175-pound litter skid 50 yards.

In the finale of the day, gladiators met on the mat in a round-robin combatives tournament. California's Staff Sgt. Demetrius McCowan, 28, a sheet metal worker with Company A, 1106th Theatre Aviation Support Maintenance Group, and Batz, stood as respective champions.

On Day 4, Soldiers put pen to paper for a written exam, role-played in interacting

## Region VII Results

### INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:

Spc. Julian Batz, Nevada, Army Physical Readiness Test and Combat Readiness Test

Staff Sgt. Eugene Patton, Colorado, Day and Night Land Navigation, MOUT, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills

Staff Sgt. Brian Bower, Arizona, Water Survival and Obstacle Course

Staff Sgt. Craig Pace, Utah, Foot March

Spc. Joshua Vazquez, Utah, M9/M4 Fire

Staff Sgt. Larry Harlan, Nevada, Distance Run

Staff Sgt. Demetrius McCowan, California, Combatives

with media and appeared before a board of three sergeants major. It was a stage in which standings could hinge on one question. On the last night, the warriors gathered for the awards ceremony and results announcement.



*Staff Sgt. Larry Harlan answers interview questions on the military's policy for don't ask don't tell during the role-play event in interacting with the media during the Army National Guard's Region VII competition held at San Luis Obispo, Calif. Harlan finished second in the competition among NCOs.*

Patton and Batz competed for national bragging rights for four days in late July at Fort Benning, Ga. Results were unavailable before press time.

"There is nothing like knowing you are representing your state against the other states," said Harlan, who added that it builds esprit de corps. "You are the best of the best, mentally and physically tough. Anyone can be good at one event. But to win you need to be great at everything. The best part was watching Spc. Batz win. He is the future of our organization and it was a great honor to train with him."

Batz, awarded an Army Commendation Medal, also hopes for a reserved parking space at the Clark County Armory. "I expect to see all of the same events plus at the national level, but faster times, and a higher level of competition," he said. "And I don't think winning is a big deal, but I think winning will allow me the opportunity to accomplish something that is a big deal." ■

*Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs, contributed to this story.*

## NEVADA GUARD TEAM RACKS UP DUAL TITLES

*By Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

**CARSON CITY** – Ten Nevada Guard members and employees who logged 880 miles in five days as participants finished first in the Corporate Challenge Bike to Work Week, which kicked off on May 14.

The team, which dubbed themselves the Nevada Guard Rough Riders, took first place and rode 255 miles more than the second place defending champions, the Nevada Department of Transportation. The Guard team also notched a first with 161 total trips. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection team finished second with 133 trips.

Warrant officers Roy Hellen and Tom Mc Elroy, Jeff Resler and Ward Patrick accepted the award plaques on behalf of the Rough Riders on May 18 at the Firkin & Fox in Carson City. Other team members included Staff Sgt. Vince Carlese, Sgt. Mike Getten, Dave Grech, 1st Lt. Joe Lamprecht, Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez and Maj. Dan Theilen.

Fellow team member Lt. Col. Jeff Hansen was hurt when his bicycle collided with a car a few days before the week started. Lamprecht stepped in the morning of the first day of competition.

Hansen said it was his protective gear, especially his helmet, that saved him from more serious injury. ■



# AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • March, April, May 2012

## AWARDS

### Legion of Merit



COL Alan Butson . . . . . JFHQ

### Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Paul Adcox . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SFC Oswald Brown . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 CPT Phillip Gingrich . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 LTC Kurt Neddenriep . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 CPT Michael Schiemer . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 CSM Robert Boldry . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 SSG Christian Gonzalez . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 CPT Derek Imig . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 MSG Michael Spaulding . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 LTC Jeffrey Hansen . . . . . 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
 SFC Frederick Bartalomy . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 SFC Shauna Reese . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 COL Brenda Griffith . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 MSG Edward Rael . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 MAJ Wilson Dasilva . . . . . JFHQ  
 SFC Jeremiah Mock . . . . . JFHQ

SFC Wade Mendenhall . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret  
 CMSgt Robert Benton . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
 CMSgt Nereo Pecson . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 Maj Justin Galli . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
 MSgt Jessica Bean . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 SMSgt James Morgan . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 TSgt Kelly Bitz . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 Capt Rachel Creger . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 CMSgt Mark Bailey . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 Lt Col Beth Boschee . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 2nd Lt Jennifer James . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

### Army Commendation Medal



SGT Mark Bright . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SFC John George . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SFC Ronald Hague . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SSG Lawrence Taylor . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SGT Pamela Commins . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 SSG Roberto Caceres . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 1IT Carlito Rayos . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 SFC Leon Ferran . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 SSG Aaron Brockway . . . . . JFHQ  
 SFC Autumn Jones . . . . . JFHQ  
 SSG Robin Kinney . . . . . JFHQ  
 SGT Caitlin Koffarnus . . . . . JFHQ  
 MSG Thomas Sauls . . . . . JFHQ  
 SFC Robert Jester . . . . . NV Counter Drug  
 SSG Harry English . . . . . NVARNG Med Det  
 SSG Derek Fore . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret

### Air Force Commendation Medal



1st Lt Leslie Mays . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 A1C Nephtali Barrera . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

### Army Achievement Medal



SGT Curt Cummings . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SSG Francis Macale . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 CPL Darren Obarr . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SPC Matthew Scarine . . . . . 1/221st Cav  
 SPC Monica Marks . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 1LT Dillon Sauer . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 2LT Zack Taylor-Warren . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 SSG Scott Taylor . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 SSG Rebecca Kleinendorst . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd

### Air Force Achievement Medal

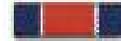


SSgt Clifford Maxfield . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 TSgt Joseph Cacciatore . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

### Superior Civilian Service Award

Randall Seeber . . . . . JFHQ Army  
 Alex Talmant . . . . . JFHQ Army

### Nevada Medal of Merit



Stephan Arzoian . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 Lawrence Smith . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

### Nevada State Commendation Medal



SPC Jacob Fair . . . . . 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
 LTC Christopher Patterson . . . . . JFHQ  
 Joseph Tucker . . . . . JFHQ

### Nevada Humanitarian Service Ribbon



SSgt Brandon Upton . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
 SSgt Jawann Wilson . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
 SSgt Ronald Zaragoza . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn

### Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SSG Elizabeth Zamora-Lechuga . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 SSG Jennifer Palomino . . . . . 421st RTI  
 SFC Yesenia Dyer . . . . . 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
 SPC Allison Mangosing . . . . . 422nd Exped Signal Bn

### Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



MSgt Jason Barlow . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 TSgt Rexford Barton . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SSgt William Boekenooogen . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SSgt Jon Cumings . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SrA Michael Johnson . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SMSgt Craig Madole . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SSgt Desaree Pesina . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SrA Jeffrey Stelle . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SrA Adam Willett . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 SrA Sean Brown . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 LtCol Russell Earle . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
 CMSgt James Ross . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 SrA Garrett Gonzales . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 SrA Otis Hawkins . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 Maj Brenda Lienke . . . . . JFHQ  
 Col Mitchell Sperling . . . . . JFHQ  
 SSgt Bryce Miller . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 A1C Joe Franzen . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

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 SSgt Kevin Sidley . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
 SrA Benjamin Berg . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
 SrA Wesley Falconer . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 SSgt Katie Rimbey . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 Msgt Shawn Marston . . . . . 152nd Mission Spt Grp  
 SMSgt Gilberto Carrera . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
 SSgt Kenneth Fitzgerald . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
 A1C Ryan Burkhart . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 SSgt Bartley O'Toole . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
 Capt Brian Moynihan . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
 TSgt Michelle Cochran . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
 Maj Michael-David Komorous . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn

**Nevada First Sergeant Ribbon**



1SG David Pectol . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team

**Nevada Honor Guard Ribbon**



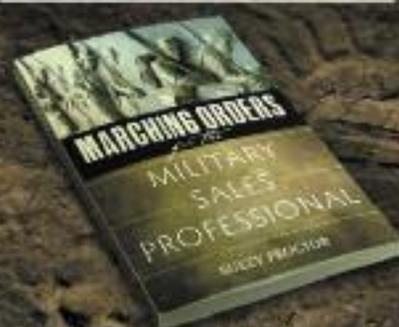
Maj Todd Hudson . . . . . 152nd Operations Grp  
 Capt Melissa Beauchamp . . . . . JFHQ

**Nevada Recruiting Ribbon**



SrA Anthony Hinen . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 SSgt John Lopez . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn

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 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 

**Family Emergency Plan** 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 

**Family Emergency Plan** 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 



# PROMOTIONS

## LTC/Lt Col

Amadeo Flores ..... JFHQ  
Bryan Ricks ..... 192nd Airlift Sqdn

## MAJ/Maj

Kristoffer Pfalmer ..... 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
Brian Gunderson ..... 152nd Intel Sqdn  
Omar Nava ..... NVARNG Med Det

## CPT/Capt

Robert Kolvet ..... 485th MP Co  
John Atkins ..... 92nd Civil Support Team  
Carlito Rayos ..... 92nd Civil Support Team  
Marco Furlan ..... HHT, 1/221st Cav  
Michael Moya ..... HHT, 1/221st Cav

## 1LT/1st Lt

David Paxton ..... 609th Engineer Co  
Eric Mangino ..... HHT, 1/221st Cav  
Easy Bearden ..... I Troop, 1/221st Cav

## 2LT/2nd Lt

Ryan Waller ..... 100th Quartermaster Co  
Jake Gillman ..... 1864th Transp Co  
Robert Hoffman ..... 240th Engineer Co  
Amanda Willis ..... 485th MP Co  
Adam Gardner ..... 593rd Transp Co  
Tyler Wistisen ..... HHT, 1/221st Cav

## CW4

Aaron Southerland ..... 1/168th MEDEVAC

## CW2

David Bouse ..... HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Erick Willrich ..... JFHQ

## WO1

Jeffrey Steere ..... 1/189th Aviation

## CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Michael Ariztia ..... 991st Aviation Troop Cmd

## 1SG/MSG/SMSgt

Edward Franco ..... B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Angela Ash ..... 152nd Airlift Wing  
James Lindsay ..... 152nd Civil Engineer Sq  
Clayton Brown ..... 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
Justin Chapel ..... 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
Jennifer Harrell ..... 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
Paula Clark ..... 152nd Communications Flt  
Nemiah Rutledge ..... 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
Richard Brant ..... 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Kevin Horsch ..... 152nd Maint Sqdn

## SFC/MSgt

Gregory Heischman ..... JFHQ

## SSG/TSgt

Adam Dubois ..... 277th Engineer Platoon  
Ryan Carlile ..... 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
Kevin Sidley ..... 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
Kristy Lazaro ..... 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Timothy Schweppe ..... 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Christopher Sipes ..... 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Kimberly Wadsworth ..... 593rd Transp Co

## SGT/SSgt

Jonathan Lanier ..... 277th Engineer Platoon  
John Jakus ..... B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Jacob Kenneston ..... B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Benjamin Antone ..... C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Steven Davidson ..... C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Crader Geil ..... C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Kristy Reynolds ..... C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Joed Ruth ..... C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Michael Xavier ..... 593rd Transp Co  
Paul Jarrett ..... 72nd MP Co  
Christopher Flanagan ..... I Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Joel Rice ..... K Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Dustin Scott ..... K Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Jakob Camarena ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Nicholis Diltz ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Allen Marshall ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Robert Randall ..... 152nd Communications Flt  
Dion Richardson ..... 152nd Medical Grp  
Jeremy Esteban ..... 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Andrew McGriff ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Jason Paculba ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Benjamin Pesis ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Robert Pulley ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Thomas Royal ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
David Upton ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Cody Wilson ..... L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Rory Townley ..... JFHQ

# RETIREMENTS

CW4 David Anderson ..... B Co, 3/140th  
CW5 Robert Bagnato ..... JFHQ  
SGM John Bersalona ..... 1/221st Cav  
SFC Bradley Bock ..... B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
SPC Arlyn Cook ..... B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
SrA Warren Creamer ..... 152nd Maint Sqdn  
CW4 Anthony Foley ..... 1/168th MEDEVAC  
CW2 Michael Girdler ..... B Co, 3/140th  
SSG Jeffrey Hacker ..... 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
CW4 Brandon Hose ..... B Co, 3/140th  
MAJ Lawrence Irwin ..... HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
SGT John Jordan ..... NVARNG Rec/Ret  
MSgt Gina Kohl ..... 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
CMSgt Nereo Pecson ..... 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
SFC Ronald Pitts ..... JFHQ  
MSG Edward Rael ..... 991st Aviation Troop Cmd  
SGT Roy Randall ..... 609th Engineer Co  
SSG Christopher Spinney ..... 100th Quartermaster Co

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Nicholas Lieberman . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
 Mathew Corey . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
 Christina Harvey . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
 Victor Ansoategui . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
 Samantha Shawver . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Elizateth Thomas . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Kristina Atia . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Kyle Spang . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Charine Shappee . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Napaul Cavazos . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Matthew Caruso . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Presley Brooks . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Nada Wade . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Micah Insley . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
 Philip Chrystal . . . . . 106th Public Affairs Det  
 Richard Mirabelli . . . . . 137th MP Det  
 Jaspertroy Alcid . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Robert Baker . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Sarah Hedgecock . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Joshua Jenkins . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Bradley Hunt . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Diosdado Quinton . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 Johnathan Auch . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 Jasmine Romero . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 Troy Brown . . . . . 1864th Transp Co  
 Jake Gillman . . . . . 1864th Transp Co  
 Lauren Bradshaw . . . . . 1864th Transp Co  
 Michael Sousa . . . . . 1864th Transp Co  
 Damon Adams . . . . . 1864th Transp Co  
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 Jacob Anderson . . . . . 1/189th Aviation  
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 Ryan Stringer . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Victor Leon . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Vincent Ibanez . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Cory Fenter . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Samuel Inbody . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Sergio Morenoesparza . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Sean Alexander . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Salina Ingleberger . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Richard Buford . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Chun Yip . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
 Ronald Hess . . . . . 277th Engineer Platoon  
 Edison Ty . . . . . 277th Engineer Platoon  
 Quinton Bulloch . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Laura Loya . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Michael Edgar . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Melissa Urbano . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Cody Hall . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Gulap Phetdara . . . . . B Co, 3/140th  
 Katherine Bandy . . . . . D Co, 3/140th  
 Sierra Leonard . . . . . D Co, 3/140th  
 Angelica Carlos . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Sage Gilliam . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Dillin Hart . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Jayr Delcarmen . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Sergio Medina . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Matthew Burt . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Zachary Wright . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn

Matthew Martin . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Lindsey Bechtel . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Katricia Hoskins . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Jonjay Bemel . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Crader Geil . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Joed Ruth . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Nicole Cunanan . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Patrick Gray . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
 Lortisa Carter . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Gabriel Blender . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Rylan Kirkpatrick . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Jonathan Rosales . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Bronson Brimhall . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Jesse Williams . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Jessica Elms . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 Brian Klingensmith . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 David Iveson . . . . . 593rd Transp Co  
 Peter Ramos . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 Cameron Shroyer . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 Andrew Pavlu . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 Jaime Roque . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 Peter Zikos . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 Edgar Villa . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Tevin Tuttle . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 Fermin Rodriguez . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 Galena Howard . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 Gregory Dennert . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 Brucekendall Bulaglag . . . . . 777th Engineer Det  
 Sergio Rodriguezperez . . . . . 777th Engineer Det  
 Guillermo Fierro . . . . . 777th Engineer Det  
 Miguel Luna . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Trevor Robertson . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Brad Clodfelter . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Shawn Taylor . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Daniel Manchester . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Frank Duran . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Jamar Grovner . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 Johannes Hanson . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 Koby Walsh . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 William Ide . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Alan Rivas . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Zachariah Omahar . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Katherine Cifuentesnajera . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
 Austin Slate . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cav  
 Vithaya Chorakoun . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cav  
 Aaron Exum . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cav  
 Alec Christiansen . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cav  
 Anthony Guerrero . . . . . K Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Kyle Cuthill . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Jeremy Esters . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Steven Milich . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 James Badia . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Matthew Martinez . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Trevor Camacho . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Michael Smith . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
 Gregory Nixon . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Retention  
 Matthew Koepke . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Retention  
 Cesar Melgarejo . . . . . Camp Stead Training Center  
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 Kelsey Mackenzie . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
 Paul Mattick . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
 Kyle Kong . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn  
 Benjamin Metler . . . . . 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn

Lisa Delvecchio . . . . . 152 Airlift Wing  
 Danielle Del Prete . . . . . 152 Airlift Wing  
 Michael Macneil . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 Hank Burns . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 Christopher Dugger . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
 Karina Espinoza . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
 Kimberly Belen . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
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 Sean Chambers . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 Trenton Buxton . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 Jesse Hehn . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 Brian Stanton Jr . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
 Andrew Mvcarars . . . . . 152nd Intel Sqdn  
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 Erwin Hufana . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
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 Jami Harris . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
 Victor Torres-Solozano . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
 Jake Toppa . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
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